

As a gun owner I can agree that we need to have some sensible discussions about these mass killings and how to prevent them. All must be on the table; mental health issues, 24/7 media coverage that makes these killers a household name, violent movies and video games, strengthening the morals and values in our households, closing the loopholes in our judicial system and tougher laws for those who commit crimes with a gun. This is all part of the equation. The bills being proposed appear to be more interested in pushing an agenda versus working together to solve the problems. The discussions have to deal with the facts and not emotion and be data based and data driven. Without getting to the root causes of these issues we will only not accomplish any solutions.

I have owned guns for over 30 years. Not once has the thought of shooting someone crossed my mind. I also live in a state that has some of the toughest gun laws in the country. Maybe we should be looking at tightening the loop holes in background checks and large volume purchases of ammunition without good reason. However, I question the logic behind some of the proposals being put forward. I am rather disappointed in those that “vilify” the “gun” and not the person pulling the trigger. We all know that the gun be itself has not killed anyone.

We are being painted as the enemy. We are law abiding citizens that use these firearms for sport, recreation, self defense and not murder. The majority of us favor tightening background checks and closing the loop holes. The media and our elected officials need to educate the public on both sides of this issue.

I ask that you do not support the bills being proposed. Let’s work together to implement permanent solutions that work for all and not penalize law abiding citizens.

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